Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Statement

by

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before

79th Executive Session of Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD

Agenda item: 2

Geneva, 23 November 2026

Madam President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the UNCTAD secretariat for the Trade and Development Report 2026 and its valuable analysis.

The report shows that while global trade remains resilient, development opportunities are increasingly unequal. We are particularly concerned about growing trade fragmentation and the increasing influence of geopolitical considerations on trade, investment and technology policies. These developments further limit the ability of developing countries to diversify their economies, strengthen productive capacities and move towards higher-value activities.

Madam President,

The report reinforces a point my delegation has also emphasized in this Board: national development efforts cannot be considered in isolation from the wider international environment. Domestic policies and reforms are essential, but their effectiveness also depends on an enabling international environment, the ability to pursue national development priorities, and equitable access to finance, markets, investment and technology.

In this context, the growing use of economic and financial instruments as tools of political pressure deserves particular attention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its firm opposition to unilateral coercive measures, which are contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations. My country has faced extensive sanctions and increasing attempts at economic blockade, including restrictions on its maritime, air and land connectivity. These measures directly affect the livelihoods and well-being of ordinary people.

Furthermore, the consequences of the military aggression against my country on the global economy has demonstrated the serious repercussions of the unlawful use of force for economic stability and development. Any assessment that focuses solely on the consequences, without taking into account the underlying causes, would inevitably remain incomplete.

More broadly, the growing resort to unilateral and discriminatory measures undermines the openness, stability and predictability of the international trading system.

Madam President,

These challenges make stronger cooperation among developing countries all the more important. As the report highlights, South-South cooperation and regional integration can expand trade opportunities, strengthen regional value chains and reduce vulnerability to external pressures.

However, they cannot substitute for a fair, inclusive and predictable multilateral trading system.

We therefore encourage UNCTAD to give greater and more systematic attention to the international conditions affecting development, particularly external barriers beyond the control of developing countries. Its analysis should address not only domestic capacity gaps, but also international policies and practices that constrain national development efforts.

Ultimately, an enabling, equitable and predictable international economic environment must remain a shared responsibility and a central priority in international development cooperation.

I thank you, Madam President.